

Dear Members of the Human Services Committee of Connecticut General Assembly:

My name is Neha Middela and I currently live in New Haven, Connecticut. I am a student at Yale University and a member of the Yale Hunger and Homelessness Action Project.

I stand in support of HB 6616: An Act Concerning Expansion Of Husky Health Benefits To Those Ineligible Due To Immigration Status.. Expanding access to HUSKY regardless of immigration status is an important step in ensuring our immigrant community has access to the healthcare we need. But our work doesn't end with expanding access up to age 26; we need to open access to HUSKY and healthcare to all immigrants of any age. If Connecticut wants a future that includes healthy families and a stable, thriving and growing workforce that is ready to meet the needs of our future, Connecticut must ensure that these individuals have access to health coverage.

During my time in college, I have seen my classmates and their families, particularly those impacted by immigration hurdles, struggle to access healthcare at key points in their lives. Particularly during the COVID-19 pandemic, people with existing barriers to healthcare access faced increased difficulties. Connecticut's HUSKY expansion to children aged 0-12 serves as a starting point for expanded healthcare access. Legislators must work to ensure that all individuals, regardless of immigration status have access to effective healthcare, a human right. Expanding HUSKY is the fiscally, socially, and most importantly, morally correct thing to do.

I support HB 6616 and I ask the committee to support and pass this legislation. Looking forward, I ask the committee to work towards opening access to all immigrants regardless of age.

Thank you for your time,

Neha Middela